



NAVAL SEA SYSTEM COMMAND 1333 ISAAC HULL AVENUE WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20376

> N REPLY REFER TO 4770 Ser 333/122 19 June 2012

Ms. Louise Brodnitz
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004-2501

Dear Ms. Brodnitz:

SUBJECT: CONCURRENCE WITH THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO BATTLESHIP

TEXAS

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations at 36 C.F.R. § 800.12(b)(2), the Department of the Navy (DoN) is notifying the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) of its intent to concur with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) proposed emergency undertaking regarding the Battleship Texas.

During the Section 106 meeting on June 6, 2012, TPWD informed consulting parties that the proposed undertaking to permanently dry berth the ship was not financially feasible at this time. TPWD further explained that the ship was in need of major repairs and that these repairs would cost several million dollars. Consulting parties agreed that a Programmatic Agreement (PA) would be an appropriate document to set forth provisions to govern ship repair work for Battleship Texas. Further, the PA would include provisions that would stipulate actions that the TPWD would take to reengage in Section 106 consultation if the agency were to receive sufficient funding to move forward with the dry berth project in the future.

On June 9, 2012, or shortly thereafter, the Battleship Texas began to take on water, which caused portions of the lower half of the ship to flood. As a result, measures have been taken to prevent further damage to the ship, including water pumping and securing a salvage and dive team to locate the source of the leaks.

To avoid, mitigate, or minimize adverse effects to the ship, the TPWD must be allowed to make emergency repairs. The DoN

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concurs with TPWD's request to complete these repairs and respectfully ask that the ACHP and THC concur, also.

Thank you for your cooperation in our continuous effort to preserve Battleship Texas. If you have any additional questions, please contact Tuwana Cummings at tuwana.cummings@navy.mil or (202) 781-1504.

Sincerely,

C. R. Pietras

CAPT

USN

Program Manager

Navy Inactive Ships Program, PMS 333